



May 8, 2013

Dr. Terry Holliday, Commissioner
Kentucky Department of Education
500 Mero Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

College of Education
Office of the Dean
103 Dickey Hall
Lexington, KY 40506-0017
859 257-2813
fax 859 323-1046
www.education.uky.edu

Dear Terry:

On behalf of the University of Kentucky College of Education, I am happy to endorse Fayette County Schools' application to become a District of Innovation. Over the past three years, we have had the unique opportunity in the college to work with Fayette County leaders through the Next Generation Leadership Academy and through a partnership in the design of the new STEAM Academy which will open in the fall of 2013. This school will serve as a model for other Fayette County schools and schools across Kentucky and the nation, and will also become a lab for preparing next generation teachers and leaders.

Additionally, the redesign of the district around targeted schools, traditional schools, and transformational schools with strong support and targeted resources for personalized learning will serve as a model for districts, large and small, as they begin to think differently about systems of support and structures for learning. This unique redesign points to creative and innovative leadership at the district, school, and community level---leadership that is essential, I believe, for Districts of Innovation to serve as models for the Commonwealth.

It is our desire at the University of Kentucky to design new learning and teaching models, and we are inspired by the Fayette County Schools' partnership and agreements to move forward with a clinically-based model for training future teachers. P20 partnerships like these will pave a path to education's future.

Thank you for the vision and thought inherent in the selection of Districts of Innovation. I believe districts that receive this distinction will have far-reaching transformational effects for all students in the Commonwealth and across the nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mary John O'Hair'.

Mary John O'Hair, Dean
College of Education